

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Criminal No. 21-
	:	
v.	:	18 U.S.C. § 1349
	:	
YANIRA MEDINA-ROMAN	:	

I N F O R M A T I O N

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by indictment, the Acting United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

**(Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud)**

**Relevant Persons**

At all times relevant to this Information:

1. Defendant YANIRA MEDINA-ROMAN was a citizen of the United States who resided in or around Highlands, New Jersey.
2. “Government Agency” was an independent organization of the United States government, established in 1961 to advance economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. A critical component of its undertaking, Government Agency gave preference to projects that promoted the export of U.S goods and services to developing middle-income countries.

3. “Maryland Corporate Victim” was a private information technology services and electronics goods provider located in Rockville, Maryland, that serviced the business, government, education, and healthcare markets. Maryland Corporate Victim had an established business relationship with Government Agency.

4. “Person One” was Government Agency’s Chief of the Office of Acquisition Management and a Director of Government Agency’s Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. In these roles, Person One’s duties included authorizing the purchases of electronics goods from domestic corporations for exportation to other countries. Person One and other Government Agency employees used email addresses that had the domain name “@GovernmentAgency.gov.” For example, Person One used the email address “PersonOne@GovernmentAgency.gov” during the times referenced in this Information.<sup>1</sup>

### **Overview of the Conspiracy**

5. From in or about July 2018 through in or about October 2018, defendant MEDINA-ROMAN and others carried out a delivery fraud scheme, whereby the conspirators: (i) appropriated without authorization the identity of Person One, an employee of Government Agency, and used Person

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<sup>1</sup> The domain for Government Agency employees included a commonly used acronym for the organization, as opposed to the Government Agency’s full name. Person One’s email address included the first letter of Person One’s first name and Person One’s full surname, followed by the domain.

One's identity to place multiple orders with Maryland Corporate Victim for hundreds of thousands of dollars of consumer electronics and gift cards to be delivered to MEDINA-ROMAN's residential address in Highlands, New Jersey (the "Residence") and to other locations; and (ii) upon delivery of the fraudulent orders of electronics goods, the conspirators sold the stolen goods directly to other persons or through classified advertisement sites on the internet, ultimately enriching themselves financially once the stolen goods were resold.

### **The Conspiracy**

6. From as early as in or about July 2018 through in or about October 2018, in Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

### **YANIRA MEDINA-ROMAN,**

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with others to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the scheme and artifice, did transmit and cause to be transmitted in interstate and foreign commerce, by means of wire, radio, and television communication, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

### **The Goal of the Conspiracy**

7. The goal of the conspiracy was for defendant MEDINA-ROMAN and her co-conspirators to enrich themselves financially by selling consumer electronics and gift cards on the secondary market that they had obtained through fraud and aggravated identity theft.

### **Manner and Means**

8. From as early as in or about July 2018 to in or about October 2018, it was part of the conspiracy that defendant MEDINA-ROMAN and others participated in a delivery fraud scheme, as described more fully below, targeting at least two organizational victims.

9. It was part of the conspiracy that, in executing the delivery fraud scheme, co-conspirators created email addresses mimicking but differing slightly from Person One's legitimate Government Agency email address.

10. It was further part of the conspiracy that co-conspirators sent emails to Maryland Corporate Victim from Person One's fake email addresses, which, while on the emails' faces appeared to be authored by a person with whom Maryland Corporate Victim shared a business relationship, and, in the ordinary course requested price quotes for consumer electronics and gift cards before later negotiating the payment and delivery of a quantity of such goods, in reality, deceived Maryland Corporate Victim into delivering the goods to the unidentified conspirators at the Residence, a property inhabited by defendant MEDINA-ROMAN.

11. It was further part of the conspiracy that co-conspirators informed defendant MEDINA-ROMAN of impending deliveries to the Residence of the fraudulently obtained consumer electronics.

12. It was further part of the conspiracy that, upon delivery to the Residence of the fraudulently obtained consumer electronics, defendant MEDINA-ROMAN took possession of the stolen goods and disposed of them as instructed by her co-conspirators, either by sale directly to a fence of stolen goods, or to a third-party through a national classified advertisement website.

13. It was further part of the conspiracy that, with the approval of co-conspirators, defendant MEDINA-ROMAN ordinarily kept for herself a portion of the sale proceeds of the stolen consumer electronics.

14. It was further part of the conspiracy that, in total, the delivery fraud scheme defrauded victims of more than \$700,000.

### **Acts in Furtherance of the Conspiracy**

15. In furtherance of the conspiracy and in order to effect the object thereof, its members committed the following acts, among others, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere:

#### **A. The July 26, 2018 Order**

16. On or about July 23, 2018, conspirators emailed Maryland Corporate Victim, requesting price quotes for certain consumer electronics, as follows:

- Twenty-five (25) Epson Projectors;

- Fifteen (15) Apple 13-inch MacBook Pro laptop computers;
- Two-hundred and fifty (250) Seagate external hard drives; and
- Twenty-three (23) Lenovo 14-inch Thinkpad laptop computers.

17. The July 23, 2018 email utilized an address closely resembling, but differing slightly from Person One's legitimate Government Agency address (the "Fake email address"), and purported to have been authored by Person One, referring in the email to Person One as Government Agency's "Chief, Office of Acquisition Management."

18. The following day, on or about July 24, 2018, Maryland Corporate Victim responded to the request for the price quote, informing the conspirators at the Fake email address that (i) filling the order for the twenty-three Lenova laptops would require a twelve-week turnaround time; and (ii) while the Epson projectors requested were no longer available for purchase, two comparable units identified in the responsive email would serve as suitable alternatives.

19. Responding to this email from the Fake email address, the conspirators remarked that "[w]e will not be needing the Lenovo laptops any more," and further agreed to consider one of the suggested alternative projectors. The conspirators reiterated their earlier request for a "price [quote] and delivery cost" for the items, which were to be shipped directly to "our . . . PROCUREMENT DIVISION WAREHOUSE" in New Jersey, specifically identifying this location as the Residence.

20. On or about July 25, 2018, Maryland Corporate Victim emailed the Fake email address a sales quote reflecting a price for the entire order in excess of \$100,000.

21. On or about July 26, 2018, the conspirators emailed Maryland Corporate Victim from the Fake email address, and accepted the price quote. The conspirators attached to the email a bogus purchase order under the Government Agency's letterhead, which itemized all but the Seagate hard drives from the original request's consumer electronics. The conspirators further requested "quick action" from Maryland Corporate Victim in filling the order. The total price of the order was \$79,350. In the "Ship to" section of the fake purchase order, the conspirators listed "Contact Person: YANIRA PEREZ."

22. Over the ensuing several weeks, co-conspirators, emailing Maryland Corporate Victim from the Fake email address, as well as from another email address falsely purporting to be from Person One, and similarly designed to deceive Maryland Corporate Victim ("Fake email address 2"), discussed the delivery of the consumer electronics. On or about August 23, 2018, conspirators, emailing Maryland Corporate Victim from Fake email address 2, confirmed receipt of the balance of the consumer electronics delivery.

23. That delivery was made to the Residence.

**B. The August 23, 2018 Order**

24. On or about August 22, 2018, in response to a request by email from conspirators for pricing of 67 Apple, 15-inch MacBook Pro laptops, Maryland Corporate Victim, believing it was corresponding with Person One, emailed conspirators a sales quote listing the laptops at a unit price of \$2,795, for a total contract price of \$187,265.

25. On or about August 23, 2018, the conspirators, using Fake email address 2, submitted to Maryland Corporate Victim a bogus purchase order for the 67 MacBook Pro laptops at the earlier quoted price of \$187,265, “for quick action and processing.” The fake purchase order, purporting to have been submitted under the “Purchasing Authority” of Person One, requested the laptops be shipped to the Residence.

26. On or about September 7, 2018, Maryland Corporate Victim emailed the conspirators at Fake email address 2, confirming shipment to the Residence of the 67 MacBook Pro laptops.

27. On or about September 10, 2018, the conspirators, using Fake email address 2, emailed Maryland Corporate Victim, acknowledging receipt of the September 7, 2018 email discussed in paragraph 26, above, and further instructing “that all invoices should be emailed to me so I can follow up with our finance department for payment once due.” The email additionally solicited pricing information for 96 Apple, 15-inch MacBook Pro and 13 Apple, 13-inch MacBook Pro laptops.

28. Within approximately one week after September 10, 2018, defendant MEDINA-ROMAN received the 67 laptops at the Residence. Shortly after receiving the laptops, MEDINA-ROMAN boasted to another person in an instant message that she had “just got 90 apple . . . laptops that cost 2799 each and sold them all for 1k [each].”

**C. The September 14, 2018 Order**

29. On or about September 13, 2018, the conspirators, using Fake email address 2, reached out to Maryland Corporate Victim, asking whether “you can provide a quote on Apple iTunes Gift Card?? If available what is the minimum / maximum order that can be placed and how soon can it be delivered?”

30. The following day, on or about September 14, 2018, Maryland Corporate Victim, believing it was communicating with Person One, emailed the conspirators at Fake email address 2, advising that iTunes gift cards could be ordered at values of \$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100.

31. On that same date, on or about September 14, 2018, the conspirators, still communicating with Maryland Corporate Victim from Fake email address 2, stated that: “I am glad you could supply us with the iTunes Gift Card as we will need them to give our staffs due to an upcoming project events.” The conspirators further requested the delivery time for an order of 3,251 iTunes gift cards, each valued at \$100.

32. After receiving a quote from Maryland Corporate Victim of \$325,100 for 3,251 iTunes gift cards, each valued at \$100, the conspirators, on or about September 14, 2018, submitted another bogus purchase order for 3,251 iTunes gift cards, directing that the order be delivered to an address in the State of Georgia.

33. On or about October 3, 4, and 5, 2018, three attempts were made by the United States Postal Inspection Service (“USPIS”) to deliver iTunes gift cards to the Residence. On each of these occasions, no one answered the door at the Residence to accept delivery. USPIS left notifications at the Residence of the unsuccessful delivery attempts.

34. On or about October 10, 2018, defendant MEDINA-ROMAN approached a United States Post Office (“USPS”) letter carrier delivering mail on a street nearby the Residence, and told the letter carrier that she was expecting a delivery of iTunes gift cards. After defendant MEDINA-ROMAN signed for the parcel on the USPS hand-held scanner, the letter carrier gave MEDINA-ROMAN the parcel, which contained a partial delivery of the 3,251 iTunes gift cards order.

#### **D. Interstate Wire Transmissions**

35. Between in or around July 2018 through in or around October 2018, the co-conspirators sent and received, among others, the following emails that were transmitted by wire in interstate and foreign commerce:

<b>DATE OF EMAIL</b>	<b>SENDER (location)</b>	<b>RECIPIENT (location)</b>
On or about August 23, 2018	Conspirators (email server located in Kansas)	Maryland Corporate Victim (email server located in Georgia)
On or about September 14, 2018	Conspirators (email server located in Kansas)	Maryland Corporate Victim (email server located in Georgia)

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

**FORFEITURE ALLEGATION**

1. The allegations contained in this Information are incorporated by reference as though set forth in full herein for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. Section 2461(c).

2. Upon conviction of the offense in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349 set forth in this Information, defendant

**YANIRA MEDINA-ROMAN,**

shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), any property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from, proceeds the defendant obtained directly or indirectly, as a result of such violation, including but not limited to \$25,000 in United States Currency, in that such sum in the aggregate is property representing the amount of proceeds obtained by the defendant as a result of the offense.

**SUBSTITUTE ASSETS PROVISION**

3. If any of the above-described property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or

e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty; it is the intention of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 981 and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the above-described forfeitable property.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachael A. Honig" with a stylized flourish at the end.

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RACHAEL A. HONIG  
Acting United States Attorney